

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION
ADMINISTRATIVE COURT

CO/312/2021, CO/329/2021,
CO/354/2021, CO/397/2021,
CO/402/2021

In the matter of an application for Judicial review

BETWEEN

THE QUEEN on the application of

(1) [initials]
(2) [initials]
(3) [initials]
(4) [initials]
(5) [initials]

Claimants

(6) and-

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT

Defendant

EXHIBIT PC/2

<u>NAPIER BARRACKS (FOLKESTONE)</u>	<u>Actions Taken</u>	<u>Continuing Actions</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>
Action Plan following visit from Crown Inspectorate 25 Feb 21			
<u>General Fire Precautions</u>			
Articles 4 & 8 Reducing the Risk of Fire Amber 2 - The current measures for reducing the risk of fire do not ensure that relevant people are appropriately protected from serious risk. Specific Failure: The storage and security of combustible waste was poorly controlled. Example of Failure: The commercial waste bins are adjacent to the means of escape routes from the residential accommodation. Immediate Cause of Failure: Art. 5 - Corrective works are under way, but not completed	All combustible waste removed from escape routes. Waste is now stored away from all escape routes. Fire-retardant curtains are now in place to provide privacy between individual spaces and all the occupants individual areas (pods) are cordoned off in this way. Service users had initially been adding to these curtains with combustible materials to seek to create greater privacy, however this practice has been clamped down on and incident reports raised along with associated warning issued to all offenders. Daily walk-round checks continue, and this issue is constantly monitored, and warnings are issued to the offenders by staff on site and monitored for future adherence to the occupancy conditions.	With the current Covid-19 restrictions there are no incoming service users to the camp at the moment. The induction process will be subject to a review and amendments made to discourage these actions for all new service users into the camp – diarised for completion by 8th February.	27-Feb-21
Additional Specific Failure: Smoking is not adequately controlled. Additional Immediate Cause of Failure: Art. 11 - No effective fire safety measure was in place. Additional Example of Failure: Service Users are smoking within the residential areas of the blocks	Occupants are advised on induction that smoking is NOT permitted in the blocks on site (included in the licence document signed during induction) and smoke detectors are in place in all the accommodation blocks being used for sleeping accommodation. Each of the accommodation blocks have now had the fire alarm / smoke detector systems checked by an appropriate contractor, and current certification is held for each block. Daily walk-round checks and weekly inspections continue, and this issue is a constant problem and warnings are issued to the offenders by staff on site as necessary	With the current Covid-19 restrictions means there are no incoming service users to the camp at the moment. The review of the induction process will include a re-emphasis of the 'no-smoking' rules, increasing the prominence of this wording on the induction licence document (completion scheduled as shown above). There is now a contract in place with a local contractor relating to the maintenance and repair of these fire prevention systems. He has been asked to attend the site to review some of the previous certifications provided where specific areas have been excluded from the checking process (e.g. roof voids, toilets and boiler rooms in respective blocks).	26-Feb-21
Articles 4, 8 & 13 Warning of Fire. Additional information will be required to assess compliance. Whilst it is noted that there has been significant works undertaken on the detection system, we will require sight of the system certificates provided by the fire alarm installers in order to assess compliance.	Certificates submitted.		08-Mar-21
4, 8, 14 Lighting levels for evacuation. Additional information will be required to assess compliance. Whilst it is noted that there has been significant works undertaken on the emergency lighting, we will require sight of the system certificates provided by the emergency lighting installers in order to assess compliance. Whilst it is noted that there has been significant works undertaken on the emergency lighting, we will require sight of the system certificates provided by the emergency lighting installers in order to assess compliance.	FST will be completing this work.		23 March 2021
4, 8 & 13 Fire-fighting Equipment. Additional information will be required to assess compliance. A number of replacement fire extinguishers have been purchased but not yet positioned for use. We will require confirmation of fire extinguishers the final positioning within the site in order to assess compliance.	After discussion with Crown Inspectorate it was agreed the fire extinguishers should be held centrally.		Feb-21

4, 8, 15(1) & 19 Emergency Procedures & Instructions. AMBER 2 - The current emergency procedures, instructions and safety drills do not ensure that relevant people – including those with PEEPs - are appropriately protected from significant risk	This process was reviewed by both Clearsprings and NACCS staff when the first potential Covid-19 case was noted on site and arrangements were made for service users in isolation to be exempted from any pre-arranged fire drill, to avoid cross-contamination with other service users	Emergency procedure updated and submitted. Fire drills taking place once a week. Any non compliance by SUs is being recorded.	01-Mar-21
Articles 4, 8 & 21 Fire Training and Drills. AMBER 2 - Once implemented, the proposed staff training on the fire precautions and the specific actions to be taken in the event of fire at the premises could ensure that relevant people are appropriately protected from significant risk.	Fire training has been completed by a Consultant. All staff (NACCS and CRH site staff) attended.		04-Mar-21
Management. Articles 8, 9 & 11 Arrangements for fire risk assessment. Additional information will be required to assess compliance. We will require sight of the revised fire risk assessments in order to assess compliance.	All FRAs have been submitted. The fire risk assessments have been completed by the Clearsprings fire safety team. They have been further updated during January to reflect the various changes that have been made on site, specifically in relation to the full site lockdown due to the Covid outbreak.	Arrangements are in place for the fire safety team to be copied into any incident reports relating to unsafe actions noted, or warnings issued on site, so that the assessment documents can be updated in line with specific experiences noted – the fire risk assessments are set for review at the end of May 2021, unless any specific issues occur on site to necessitate an earlier review in certain locations.	10-Mar-21
Articles 8 & 11 Monitoring the Internal Fire Safety Management Arrangements. AMBER 2 - The failure to monitor and review the safety management arrangements has resulted in a consequent failure to protect relevant people appropriately from significant risks. Specific Failure: The Responsible Person has not ensured that arrangements are in place to monitor the performance of the persons appointed to manage fire safety. Example of Failure: Ready Homes are not closely monitoring the performance of NACCS on site. A process is in place for routine meetings to be held between responsible persons on site to discuss fire safety, but these meetings have been used to discuss COVID rather than fire safety.	The appointment of the NACCS General Manager provides a clear focus for all activities on site, and clear communication channels are now in place. CRH also have a presence on site every weekday. All documentation is assessed by CRH weekly.		04-Mar-21
The following works identified after the incident on 29 January			
WORKS TO BE DONE	COMMENTS	BY WHOM	COMPLETED DATE
Block 8 - Dorm			
Seal holes in all walls and ceiling which have cables running.		ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
3no fire rated hinges on each dormitory door	100 per door	ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
Boiler cupboard requires intumescent trips, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery.	80 per door - 2 doors	ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
No Smoking signage (Smell of smoking present within premises)		ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
	[name] FST	FIRE SAFETY TECH	18/03/2021
Block 6 - Dorm (unoccupied)			
Seal holes in all walls and ceiling which have cables running.			
Intumescent strips required for dormitory doors x2 doors		ONE-POINT	15/03/2021
3no fire rated hinges on each dormitory door	100 per door	ONE-POINT	15/03/2021
Boiler cupboard requires intumescent strips, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery.	80 per door - 2 doors	ONE-POINT	15/03/2021
No Smoking signage (Smell of smoking present within premises)		ONE-POINT	15/03/2021
	[name] FST	FIRE SAFETY TECH	15/03/2021
Block 5 - Dorm (unoccupied)			
Seal holes in all walls and ceiling which have cables running.			
Intumescent strips Required for dormitory doors x2 doors		ONE-POINT	15/03/2021
3no fire rated hinges on each dormitory door	100 per door	ONE-POINT	15/03/2021
Boiler cupboard requires intumescent strips, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery.	80 per door - 2 doors	ONE-POINT	15/03/2021
No Smoking Signage (Smell of smoking present within premises)		ONE-POINT	15/03/2021
No Signage on notice boards (Additional fire safety signage, fire action notice required)	[name] FST	FIRE SAFETY TECH	19/03/2021
	[name] FST	FIRE SAFETY TECH	19/03/2021
Block 3 - Dorm (unoccupied)			
Seal holes in all walls and ceiling which have cables running.			
Intumescent strips required for dormitory doors x2 doors		ONE-POINT	15/03/2021
3no fire rated hinges on each dormitory door	100 per door	ONE-POINT	15/03/2021

Boiler cupboard requires intumescent strips, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery.	80 per door - 2 doors	ONE-POINT	15/03/2021
No Smoking signage (Smell of smoking present within premises)		ONE-POINT	15/03/2021
	[name] FST	FIRE SAFETY TECH	19/03/2021
Block 2 - Dorm (unoccupied)			
Seal holes in all walls and ceiling which have cables running.			
To achieve full compartmentation, full fire doors will be required with self-closing device, intumescent strips, 3no fire rated hinges in left and right dormitory leading to rear side of premises.		ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
Intumescent strips Required for dormitory doors x2 doors		ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
3no fire rated hinges on each dormitory door	100 per door	ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
Boiler cupboard requires intumescent strips, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery.	80 per door - 2 doors	ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
		ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
Block 1 - Dorm (unoccupied)			
Main entrance door to be kept shut at all times			
Seal holes in all walls and ceiling which have cables running.	All Staff and security notified immediately		31/03/2021
Fire exit door has gap		ONE-POINT	31/03/2021
To achieve full compartmentation, full fire doors will be required with self-closing device, intumescent strips, 3no fire rated hinges in left and right dormitory leading to rear side of premises.	Fire brush required	ONE-POINT	31/03/2021
Intumescent strips required for dormitory doors x2 doors		ONE-POINT	31/03/2021
3no fire rated hinges on each dormitory door	100 per door	ONE-POINT	31/03/2021
Boiler cupboard requires intumescent strips, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery.	80 per door - 2 doors	ONE-POINT	31/03/2021
			31/03/2021
Block 9 - Dorm			
Dormitory door does not close on the right-hand side and requires to be readjusted.			
Intumescent strips required for dormitory doors x2 doors		ONE-POINT	24/03/2021
3no fire rated hinges on each dormitory door	100 per door	ONE-POINT	24/03/2021
Ceiling tiles to be correctly installed	80 per door - 2 doors	ONE-POINT	24/03/2021
No Smoking signage		ONE-POINT	24/03/2021
Boiler cupboard requires intumescent strips, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery.	[name] FST	FIRE SAFETY TECH	24/03/2021
Replace door handles on dormitory door.		ONE-POINT	24/03/2021
Block 10 - Dorm			
Intumescent strips required for dormitory doors x2 doors			
3no fire rated hinges on each dormitory door	100 per door	ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
Smoke detector required in drying room	80 per door - 2 doors	ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
Intumescent strip & 3no fire rated hinges required for drying room		ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
Boiler cupboard requires intumescent strips, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery.		ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
Boiler room door is compromised (Has gap between the underside of the door and the floor)		ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
Remove rubbish from communal area with in block 10		ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
Seal holes in all walls and ceiling which have cables running.	All rubbish removed		18/03/2021
		ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
Block 11 - Dorm (unoccupied)			
Main Entrance door to be kept shut at all times			
Dormitory door does not close on the right-hand side and requires to be readjusted.	All Staff and security notified immediately		25/03/2021
Push bar handle on the fire exit leading to external is broken.		ONE-POINT	25/03/2021
Intumescent strips required for dormitory doors x2 doors		ONE-POINT	25/03/2021
3no fire rated hinges on each dormitory door	100 per door	ONE-POINT	25/03/2021
No Smoking signage	80 per door - 2 doors	ONE-POINT	25/03/2021
Boiler cupboard requires intumescent strips, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery.	[name] FST	FIRE SAFETY TECH	19/03/2021
Boiler room door is compromised (Has gap between the underside of the door and the floor)		ONE-POINT	25/03/2021
	Fire brush required	ONE-POINT	25/03/2021
Block 12 - Dorm			
Intumescent strips required for dormitory doors x2 doors			18/03/2021
3no fire rated hinges on each dormitory door	100 per door	ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
Boiler cupboard requires intumescent strips, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery.	80 per door - 2 doors	ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
Seal holes in all walls and ceiling which have cables running.		ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
No Smoking signage required		ONE-POINT	18/03/2021
Block 13 - Private Rooms			
Intumes cent strips Required for dormitory doors x2 doors			17/03/2021

3no fire rated hinges on each dormitory door	100 per door	ONE-POINT	17/03/2021
Dormitory doors requires to be readjusted as they do not self close	80 per door - 2 doors	ONE-POINT	17/03/2021
Boiler cupboard requires intumescent strips, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery.		ONE-POINT	17/03/2021
Seal holes in all walls and ceiling which have cables running.		ONE-POINT	17/03/2021
No Smoking signage required		ONE-POINT	17/03/2021
All doors leading to rooms required to be FD 30 including ironmongery, self closers, 3no fire rated hinges and intumescent strips	[name] FST	FIRE SAFETY TECH	19/03/2021
Ceiling tiles need to be readjusted as some have been pushed up.	14 doors for 14 rooms	ONE-POINT	17/03/2021
		ONE-POINT	17/03/2021
Block 14 - Private Rooms and Dorm (unoccupied)			
Dormitory door does not close on the right-hand side and requires to be readjusted.			16/03/2021
Push bar handle on the fire exit leading to external is broken.		ONE-POINT	16/03/2021
Intumescent strips required for dormitory doors x2 doors		ONE-POINT	16/03/2021
3no fire rated hinges on each dormitory door	100 per door	ONE-POINT	16/03/2021
No Smoking signage required	80 per door - 2 doors	ONE-POINT	16/03/2021
Boiler cupboard requires intumescent strips, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery.	[name] FST	FIRE SAFETY TECH	19/03/2021
Boiler room door is compromised (Has gap between the underside of the door and the floor).		ONE-POINT	16/03/2021
Seal holes in all walls and ceiling which have cables running.	Fire brush required	ONE-POINT	16/03/2021
FD 30 doors required for rooms with self-closer, 3no fire-rated hinges, intumescent strips		ONE-POINT	16/03/2021
Communal doors require intumescent strips, 3no of fire rated hinges and self-closer	3 doors for 3 rooms	ONE-POINT	16/03/2021
Communal door replacement		ONE-POINT	16/03/2021
Block 15 - Private Rooms			
Intumescent strips required for dormitory doors x2 doors			30/03/2021
3no fire rated hinges on each dormitory door	100 per door	ONE-POINT	30/03/2021
No Smoking signage required	80 per door - 2 doors	ONE-POINT	30/03/2021
Boiler cupboard requires intumescent strips, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery.	[name] FST	FIRE SAFETY TECH	19/03/2021
FD 30 doors required for rooms with self-closer, 3no fire-rated hinges, intumescent strips		ONE-POINT	30/03/2021
Fire safety signage including but not limited to fire action notice, fire escape route signage	14 doors for 14 rooms	ONE-POINT	30/03/2021
	[name] FST	FIRE SAFETY TECH	19/03/2021
Block 16 - Private Rooms			
Intumescent strips required for dormitory doors x2 doors			30/03/2021
3no fire rated hinges on each dormitory door	100 per door	ONE-POINT	30/03/2021
No Smoking signage required	80 per door - 2 doors	ONE-POINT	30/03/2021
Boiler cupboard requires intumescent strips, 3no fire rated hinges, ironmongery and fire rated draft seals.	[name] to order	FIRE SAFETY TECH	19/03/2021
FD 30 doors required for rooms with self-closer, 3no fire-rated hinges, intumescent strips		ONE-POINT	30/03/2021
Fire safety signage including but not limited to fire action notice, fire escape route signage	14 doors for 14 rooms	ONE-POINT	30/03/2021
There is a room situated at the end of each dormitory which is occupied by sleeping residents however both rooms at either end of the block should not be used for sleeping accommodation as the fire exits are accessed in this room	Staff instructed on-site that rooms not permitted for use	FIRE SAFETY TECH	03/03/2021
Canteen			
Secondary door leading to canteen area to be replaced with new F D 30 doors inclusive of fire intumescent strips, self-closing devices, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery			Completion 9/4/21
Signage required within the building		ONE-POINT	Completion 16/4/21
All doors within the block are to inclusive of fire intumescent strips, self-closing devices, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery	[name] FST	FIRE SAFETY TECH	19/03/2021
Doors within the canteen area have been damaged due to the rioting thus require replacing	6 Doors at £200 each	ONE-POINT	TBC
Thumb-turn locks are required on rear exit doors	4 Doors	ONE-POINT	08/04/2021
Windows which have been damaged are to be replaced (fire-rated glass)	Door including windows replaced	ONE-POINT	31/03/2021
Recreational Block			
All doors within the block are to be F D 30 minimum inclusive of fire intumescent strips, self-closing devices, 3no fire rated hinges and ironmongery			Completion 16/4/21
Ceiling panels to be secured	4 Doors	ONE-POINT	Completion 16/4/21
Signage for the premises including fire action notice		ONE-POINT	Completion 16/4/21
Glass panels on common doors are to be fire-rated glass within the premises to achieve adequate compartmentation	[name] FST	FIRE SAFETY TECH	19/03/2021
Ceiling panels are missing thus require replacing		ONE-POINT	Completion 16/4/21
		ONE-POINT	Completion 16/4/21
GLASS REPLACEMENT	COMMENTS	BY WHOM	

Admin Office - 2 large windows need replacing			12/03/2021
Canteen exterior back - 2 panels of glass require replacing on window 1		ONE-POINT	12/03/2021
Canteen exterior back - 1 panel of glass requires replacing on window 2		ONE-POINT	23/03/2021
Canteen exterior back - 3 panels of glass require replacing on window 3		ONE-POINT	23/03/2021
Main entrance to canteen - glass panels abv door; 1 panel of glass req replacement (pic 7)		ONE-POINT	Completion 16/4/21
Interior canteen safety glass on door 1 - requires replacing		ONE-POINT	23/03/2021
Interior canteen safety glass on door 2 - requires replacing		ONE-POINT	23/03/2021
Kitchen double glazing door needs to be checked and repaired		ONE-POINT	Waiting authorisation
GAS	COMMENTS	BY WHOM	
Block 2 Leak from intergas boiler. Floor is flooded in the boiler room.	Block not currently in use.		Completed 10/4/21
Block 4 - Found bed mattress set on fire , in the same room where the gas meter is. Found gas pipe disconnected from the meter however left open	Block not currently in use.		Completed 10/4/21
Block 4 - Capped of the meter and made safe. Test for gas leaks found ok. However meter regulator must be changed as it may damaged regulator	Block not currently in use.		Completed 10/4/21
Block 15 - Found boiler Intergas overheating. And no heating.	Block not currently in use.		Completed 10/4/21
Block 9 found boiler programmed off, heating not working.	Boiler was tripping out but could be reset.		Completed 18/3/21
Community support office no Carbon Monoxide Alarm found on 3 flueless gas space heaters	Boiler now working.		Completed 31/1/21
Block 33 , couldn't check properly the gas tightness as building has no power and gas solenoid valve is closed. Made safe gas supply	Install carbon monoxide alarm. Office currently not		TBC



ASYLUM SEEKER ACCOMMODATION NAPIER COVID-19 MANAGEMENT PLAN

Latest review date: 10 March 2021

Version 3.0

Commented [1]: The electronic file name indicates version 2.2. Version control needs to be sorted

1.0 Background

Housing providers have commissioned existing hotels/MOD sites nationally to provide accommodation for asylum seekers and there are now about 7500 service users housed in 53 hotels across London in addition to the core IA. Since the pandemic started there have been sporadic cases of Covid-19 and several outbreaks in some of these hotels/MOD sites .

Commented [2]: This guidance is for MOD accommodation, not hotels. A separate section for hotel accommodation would be needed to cover this rather than conflating the two

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This specific guidance is for the use of accommodation providers, Local Authorities, PHE, CCGs, Migrant Help and other stakeholders who have all contributed to its development. It is to be used in core and contingency accommodation for asylum seekers in Napier Barracks, Folkestone, CT20 3EZ.

General guidance for providers of accommodation can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-providers-of-accommodation-for-asylum-seekers/covid-19-guidance-for-providers-of-accommodation-for-asylum-seekers>

2.0 What is COVID-19 and how is it spread?

COVID-19 is a new viral infection that can affect the respiratory system and causes a range of symptoms from mild to severe

The main route of transmission is through droplets produced when an infected person coughs and sneezes. These droplets can either be inhaled or land on surfaces and be transferred from hands to the face.

2.1 Symptoms

There are now thought to be a range of symptoms but the most common are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature).
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

3.0 PREVENTION

Accommodation should provide a Covid-safe environment, using standard and enhanced infection control precautions, maintaining social distancing and having protocols in place for recognising early symptoms in a service user and taking appropriate actions. The following are key principles for a Covid-safe environment:

3.1 Communication

- All service users to be advised about precautions on entry to the hotel/MOD sites and be given written information in their own language regarding face coverings, hand-washing, which areas of the hotel/MOD sites camp they can use, symptoms of Covid-19 and what to do if they develop these.
 - Induction briefings for service users are provided on arrival at the hotel/MOD sites.
 - Information is provided in the top 10 languages (based on the throughput in the last quarter). Providers are also building a library of resources in less common languages. Translated materials about Covid-19 can be found here: <https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/coronavirus-information/>
<https://www.london.gov.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-resources-and-services-your-language-0>
<https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/National-Restrictions/resources/translations/>
 - When no translated written materials are available for a language, translating services are available. Upon arrival Service users will be taken to the main waiting room that accommodates up to 20 persons socially distance and adjoining waiting room that can accommodate a further 10 persons.
 - Service users to be advised how they can access health care while in the hotel/MOD camp and ideally assisted to register with a local GP. If they become unwell, they should contact reception staff/on-site Nurse as soon as possible. If they wish to see a doctor about a non-urgent matter, they should contact the on-site Nurse for a referral.
- Staff received basic training in infection control and the management and prevention of Covid-19.
- Phones- most service users have a phone. Those who do not will be provided with a smart phone and Wi-Fi is provided throughout the camp.

Commented [3]: PHE guidance: Novel coronavirus facilities Infection Prevention and Control Operational guidance V4 24.12.20 S3 states 'All guests should be treated as potentially infectious. They should have individual rooms with en-suite to avoid need to leave the room' It is not possible to provide a covid safe environment in barrack style accommodation

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Commented [4]: Please can you include how frequent staff receive the training

3.2 Accommodation

- All new arrivals to the UK should quarantine for two weeks regardless of whether they have symptoms of Covid-19.
- The barracks may wish to cohort dormitories being used for quarantining, symptomatic and positive service users. OCT currently considering future capacity for covid safe cohorting. See guidance for cohorting here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-providers-of-accommodation-for-asylum-seekers/covid-19-guidance-for-providers-of-accommodation-for-asylum-seekers#cohorting>.

Commented [5]: Will there be a dedicated empty barrack block for quarantining new arrivals?

Commented [6]: What will the maximum safe number of service users per block be. Has there been a risk assessment to identify a maximum 'safe' number?

Commented [7]: •Due consideration should be given to additional *infection control measures and personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements when cohorting large numbers of residents with COVID-19 symptoms or positive test results, as well as staff movement between areas.
*This link needs to be inserted into wording highlighted in red.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/954690/Infection_Prevention_and_Control_Guidance_January_2021.pdf

3.3. PPE

All staff are trained in the proper use of PPE disposable masks and hand sanitisers are available throughout all the buildings in the camp.

PPE is not required if staff are not coming within two metres of service users. However, in busy corridors and reception areas it is advisable to wear a face covering.

If coming into close contact (within 2 metres) of a resident with symptoms of COVID-19 or entering the room of a symptomatic individual, staff should wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). This consists of a fluid resistant surgical mask, gloves and a disposable plastic apron. Where possible, this type of close contact should be avoided.

Cleaners should wear a mask, apron, and gloves when cleaning and take particular care when cleaning spaces or facilities used by a symptomatic person. For detailed information on PPE in this case refer to the national guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>

Cleaners should not clean the room of people with Covid-19 during the 10-day isolation period. Ideally, the room should be left closed for 72 hours (3 days) after the person has left the room and then cleaned.

Commented [8]: As with my comment 3 above - It is not possible to provide a covid safe environment in barrack style accommodation

Commented [9]: What about when staff are working together – i.e. in office space or at rest break time. Masks should be recommended when staff are working in close quarters.

Commented [10]: Need to also include guidance for the safe removal of PPE i.e. doffing

Commented [11]: Should state **MUST** wear a mask – stating should will not meet a safe system of working

Commented [12]: . Ideally, the room should be left closed for 72 hours (3 days) after the person has left the room and then cleaned.
Suggest that this sentence is removed as not included in PHE/NHS guidance. It's probably more of a risk to the residences gaining entry to this room compared to cleaning promptly with the cleaner wearing the appropriate PPE.

Commented [13]: The first 3 bullet points should be changed to:
•Staff should be trained in hand hygiene techniques (hand washing and the application of alcohol hand rub).
•Staff, residents, and all others should clean their hands regularly with either soap and water (for at least 20 seconds) or alcohol hand rub (if their hands aren't visibly soiled).
•Remove this bullet point. If soap and water is not available alcohol-based hand sanitiser should be used

3.4 Hand hygiene

- Staff should be trained in hand washing techniques.
- Staff, residents, and all others should wash hands regularly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water
- If soap and water is not available alcohol-based hand sanitiser should be used
- Hand sanitation points to be available in all buildings and dormitories, particularly at the entrance/exit. Staff are all provided with personal pocket hand sanitiser and all service users have access to soap, sanitiser and handwashing facilities.
- Hand hygiene is particularly important for staff after using public transport, when arriving at work, before eating, and throughout the day in work

3.5 Respiratory Hygiene

- Staff and service users should be encouraged to minimise potential COVID-19 transmission through good respiratory hygiene measures: The guidance is displayed throughout the camp, dormitory notice boards translated in various languages and large banners are placed on the main gate and on the outside of buildings in the camp.
 - Cover the mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing
 - Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash hands afterwards
 - Hands should be cleaned (using soap and water if possible, otherwise using hand sanitiser) after coughing, sneezing, using tissues or after any contact with respiratory secretions and contaminated objects.
 - Provide information in accessible formats to service users about hand and respiratory hygiene.

3.6 Social distancing

- Accommodation staff will carry out a risk assessment in the **hotel/**MOD sites premises to establish means of social distancing. Communal areas such as the dining room where queues form the floor is marked to enable 2-meter distancing and signage is also displayed in all communal areas.
- Staff should maintain two metres from other staff and service users and encourage SUs to do the same, markings should be placed on floors and walls with additional sources of information displayed highlighting the importance of social distancing
- Communal areas must remain closed except in exceptional circumstances following a multi-disciplinary meeting.
- One way systems to be put in place where possible such as staircases, dining areas and recreational facilities. Where this is not possible staff/security will manage the entry and exit of service users in a controlled manner.

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Commented [14]: What about the worship rooms – these were closed during the outbreak but this guidance is about preventing an outbreak and so guidance on safe use in the worship rooms needs to be included

- Face coverings to be worn in corridors and in reception areas.
- Food is prepared on -site and delivered to dormitories.
- When the kitchen is in use there are 3 sittings at each mealtime and the dining rooms (two) can accommodate up to 75 Service users per sitting.

Commented [15]: What about in the dormitories – service users will commune/gather in the central aisle in between the bed spaces

Commented [16]: This is in the event of an outbreak as in the first bullet point above it indicates that the dining room will be re-opened

Commented [G7]: If the dining room is re-opened this bullet point needs to be moved up after the first bullet point above so it flows better

3.7 Environmental cleaning

- Frequently touched areas and surfaces in communal areas, such as door handles stair rails light switches should be cleaned in all communal areas 2 times daily. Cleaning staff should wear a surgical fluid repellent mask, plastic apron and gloves
- Please refer to <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings/covid-19-decontamination-in-non-healthcare-settings>
- Staff should ensure they clean areas they have used, including any equipment, frequently and before change of shifts. The cloths used are disposable and separate cloths are used for the dormitories to those used in the shower facilities.
- Waste should be bagged in the room by the service user and placed outside the room for collection. Cleaning staff can then double bag and remove.
- Dormitories, toilet, and shower blocks are deep cleaned twice a day and cleaning products are provided for the SU's to use. The cleaning staff use antibacterial spray, disposable cloths, floor cleaning detergent, disinfectant and the Service users are supplied with a dust pan & brush, antibacterial spray and disposable spray to clean their own pod however they can ask the cleaner to mop the floor if they wish.
- Twice daily audits are conducted by on-site staff and records kept.

Commented [18]: There also needs to be separate kit for each dormitory ie. So the same disposable cloth does not get used in multiple blocks

Commented [19]: dormitory

Commented [20]: How often will this happen?

Commented [21]: Ensure cleaning products meet recommended spec for cleaning in a covid environment

3.8 Laundry

- Used bed linen to be bagged by the service user in the room and placed outside the door for collection. Cleaning staff can then double bag and removed. Bedlinen is changed on a weekly basis or upon request when required.

Commented [22]: This sentence needs to go at the beginning of this bullet point so it reads better

4.0 CASE AND OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

4.1 Reporting and surveillance

If any staff member or service user is tested and receives a positive Covid result, the following organisations should be notified as soon as possible by completing the Notification Form. The spreadsheet should be password protected and sent to the following organisations:

- Clearsprings Ready Homes
- The HPT will receive results directly from the lab.
- The relevant Local Authority Single Point of Contact (SPOC)
- The relevant CCG SPOC

PHE will contact the person named on the notification form to complete a risk assessment (see Appendix C).

4.1 What to do if a staff member develops symptoms of COVID-19:

- If a staff member develops symptoms whilst in work, they should keep a distance from all staff and SU's, contact their line manager and leave work immediately. Once home, they should arrange a test at nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119. The staff member should self-isolate until the test result is available.
- While the result is pending, work contacts do not need to self-isolate unless they themselves are symptomatic.
- If the test is positive, the individual should self-isolate for 10 days and all other household members will need to self-isolate for 10 days. This means they should not leave the house even for the approved reasons of work, essential food shopping and caring for vulnerable people.
- After 10 days the staff member can return to work if they do not have a fever or cough. If they remain unwell, they should be assessed by their GP.
- Contact tracing should be carried out in the workplace for the infectious period – 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms and 10 days afterwards (see contact tracing guidance and flowchart, section 4.6).

Commented [23]: How frequently will staff and service users be tested. In care homes staff are tested weekly and the frequency of resident testing is dependant on the level of risk. Care homes are single room en-suite accommodation so a lower risk than open barrack style accommodation where the service users will be regularly leaving the site and encountering the general public etc. This plan needs to be more proactive about the prevention of an outbreak

Commented [24]: There will need to be heightened awareness by PHE if there is a +ve that it is at NB

Commented [25]: How frequently will staff be tested?

4.2 What to do if a SU develops symptoms of COVID-19

- Daily symptom checks should be undertaken with all service users to promptly identify signs of infection. This can be done when morning meals are delivered or by daily phone calls.
- If a SU develops symptoms of COVID-19 they must get a test arranged as soon as possible, if the test is positive, they and their cohort must self-isolate in their room/dormitory for a period of 10 days.
- Whilst in the isolation period if no new cases occur the isolation of the cohort is complete after- 10 days.
- If a new case occurs in the cohort during the 10- day isolation period they will need to re-start the 10- day isolation period in response to the first new case.
- The healthcare team providing support to the barracks, PHE Kent the Local Authority should be notified if the test is positive (see section above on reporting).
- Medical help should be sought if the SU becomes significantly unwell. This can be accessed by using NHS 111 online service or calling 111. **It is important not to phone 999 unless it is a medical emergency.**
- Contact tracing should be carried out in the workplace for the infectious period – 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms and 10 days afterwards (see contact tracing guidance and flowchart, section 4.6).

4.3 Testing options:

120 Testing Kits are available on site for those who are symptomatic and can be requested from the onsite Nurse who is trained to administer them.

A mobile testing facility will be utilised for larger outbreaks where multiple testing is required. This can be arranged by contacting [name] [job title] -

Once test results are completed, they will be sent to the following email address:

[redacted]

1. If visiting a testing centre, the service user should be driven by Covid-secure transport and accompanied by a member of staff. All individuals should wear face coverings.

Commented [26]: Would a generic email address be preferable ?

NB Any NHS care received for COVID-19 is free of charge, irrespective of immigration status and no immigration checks are needed to enable testing or treatment of an asylum seeker for COVID-19

4.4 Results

If the result is negative, then the member of staff or service user and their family no longer must isolate and other SU's in the dorm.

If positive, then he and any other household members that share the room must self-isolate for 10 days. If a close contact develops symptoms during the isolation period, they must be tested promptly.

NB: Individuals who test positive should not be retested for 90 days unless they are unwell with symptoms of Covid-19.

4.5 Self-isolation protocol

- Service users will be required to self-isolate for either 10 days if they have a positive test or if they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive.
- All self-isolating SU's in the dorm (household) should be fully informed about the process for self-isolation and given explanatory written materials in their own language. General guidance for self-isolation can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>
- A risk assessment regarding mental health concerns should also be carried out at the beginning of the isolation period by the health care team commissioned to provide care at the **hotel**/MOD sites .
- Food and water will be provided to the door of the SU/family on disposable plates and cutlery with provision made for disposal and welfare checks should be carried out at this time.
- All non-clinical waste from **hotel rooms**/dormitories will be bagged by the service user and placed outside the room where it will be double bagged by cleaning staff and allowed to rest for 72 hours in a designated area.
- Bed linen should be changed by the service user if possible and placed outside the room in a bag where it will be double bagged by cleaning staff. It will be allowed to rest for 72 hours in a designated area and then washed as normal at high heat.
- If a service user has difficulty adhering to self-isolation, quarantine, or social distancing particularly if they are symptomatic then a multi-disciplinary meeting should be convened to address the issues. **Hotel**/MOD site management,

Commented [27]: How will this happen in barrack style accommodation – will the whole dorm be isolated for 10 days?

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Commented [28]: Should it not be cleaned immediately rather than rested for 72 hours?

Commented [29]: Where is the bed linen laundered – is it off site or are there on site facilities and if on site are they compliant with guidance?

Commented [30]: Should it not be disposed of immediately rather than rested for 72 hours?

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accommodation providers, public health, health care staff and mental health services may need to be involved.

4.6 Contact tracing

Contact tracing should be carried out as soon as possible as it is the key step in outbreak management. A risk assessment should be completed using the definitions below for staff and residents who test positive. Accommodation staff will support PHE and the Local Authority to identify any contacts of a member of staff or service user with confirmed Covid-19. Close contact is defined as:

- **Household contacts** – this generally refers to those living and sleeping in the same household as the case. In this setting, that would mean the same room or dormitory in addition:
 - Those who share a kitchen and bathroom with the case
 - Cleaners who have cleaned the household setting, even if the case was not present, without using PPE
- **Direct contacts** - Face to face contact with a case for any length of time, within 1m, including being coughed on, a face to face conversation, unprotected physical contact (skin to skin). This includes exposure without face to face contact within 1 metre for 1 minute or longer.
- **Travel** in a small COVID secure vehicle (e.g. car or van) with a suspected COVID case, service users are not accompanied by a staff member.
- **Proximity contact:** Extended close contact (between 1 and 2 metres for more than 15 minutes) with a case.

Contacts will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days from the last date of contact with the positive case. (see self-isolation protocol above). However, if any contacts become symptomatic, they should be tested as soon as possible.

It is critical that you follow up and call 0344 225 3861 (PHE Kent) as soon as you have had a positive case in your establishment (and every time thereafter), because all contacts identified are then formally logged with NHS Test & Trace. This allows those **staff** contacts who are eligible to receive a self-isolation support payment from their Local Authority. Without the NHS Test & Trace reference, they cannot receive financial support.

Further guidance about the criteria for this allowance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/test-and-trace-support-payment>

5.0 Outbreak protocol

An outbreak is defined as:

Two or more test-confirmed cases of COVID-19 among individuals associated with the accommodation with illness onset dates within 10 days, and one of:

- identified direct exposure between at least 2 of the test-confirmed cases in that setting (for example under one metre face to face, or spending more than 15 minutes within 2 metres) during the infectious period of one of the cases
- when there is no sustained local community transmission - absence of an alternative source of infection outside the setting for the initially identified cases
- The end of an outbreak is declared when there are no confirmed cases with illness onset dates in the last 20 days in that setting.

5.1 Risk assessment and management

- An outbreak will be managed by the PHE and Local authority with assistance from the accommodation providers. A risk assessment will be carried out using the IA setting checklist (see Appendix C)
- An outbreak management team meeting will be convened if numbers are increasing and appear to be linked. Attendees will include PHE, LA, CCG and accommodation management, as well as the healthcare team commissioned to provide support to the hotel/MOD site.
- In an outbreak situation, the barracks should be closed to admissions and there should be no movement out unless it has been assessed to be safe. Daily symptom checks with all residents is particularly important if there are service users who have tested positive.
- Testing of all residents and staff will be considered by the OMT.

Commented [31]: •The end of an outbreak is declared when there are no confirmed cases with illness onset dates in the last 28 days in that setting.

As per PHE guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-epidemiological-definitions-of-outbreaks-and-clusters/covid-19-epidemiological-definitions-of-outbreaks-and-clusters-in-particular-settings>

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APPENDIX A: ASSESSING VULNERABILITY AND THE NEED TO SHIELD

All service users should be assessed for clinical vulnerability prior to arriving in accommodation. UKVI identify vulnerable individuals on arrival into the UK and alert the accommodation providers. Guidance will depend on the level of vulnerability, see below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

Commented [32]: And what will happen with these individuals? They should not be moved to NB if they are classified as clinically extremely vulnerable. Risk assessment should be done before they are moved

People falling into this extremely vulnerable group include:

1. Solid organ transplant recipients.
2. People with specific cancers:
 - a. people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy
 - b. people with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy
 - c. people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
 - d. people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
 - e. people having other targeted cancer treatments which can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
 - f. people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months, or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
3. People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe COPD.
4. People with rare diseases and inborn errors of metabolism that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID, homozygous sickle cell).
5. People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.
6. Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired.



Appendix B

List of key contacts for updates (needs updating):

London

- London Coronavirus Response Cell – Public Health England
0300 303 0450 email: [redacted]
- [job title] [name]
[redacted]
- [name] [job title]
[redacted]
- [name] [redacted] – [job title]
Clearsprings
- Find and treat team - XXXXX

South East

- Kent County Council Public Health
- [name] [redacted]
 - [redacted]
 - Kent Health Protection Team
 - [redacted]
 - [redacted]
- [name] [redacted] [job title]
- [name] [job title]
 - [redacted]
 - [redacted]

[name] [redacted] or [redacted]

NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group

[redacted] mobile: [redacted] Primary Care Team: [redacted]

- [name]

[job title] email: [redacted]

Quality in box: [redacted]

Mobile: [redacted]

NHS Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group

[redacted] [name]

Commented [33]: I think that LA PH and PHE contact details are conflated here

Commented [34]: Would suggest just the generic details rather than naming individuals



National and Internal

- Home Office:
 - [name], [redacted]
 - [name] [redacted]
 - [name], [redacted]
- [job title] [redacted]
required: [redacted]
- LSE.Safegua [redacted]
- [name] [redacted]
- [name] [redacted]
- [name] [redacted]
- [name] [redacted]



Clearsprings
Group

softwerx

	Comments
Name and address of the affected setting.	

**APPENDIX C: OUTBREAK CHECKLIST (TO BE COMPLETED BY PHE AND ACCOMMODATION
MANAGER AS PART OF THE RISK ASSESSMENT)**

Commercial in Confidence

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Contact details for a manager/appropriate person (including name, position, telephone number and email).	
Contractor/subcontractor	
Nature of hostel: • Number of rooms • Number of residents • Number of staff • Layout of setting - floors/units • Room types - single/double/ensuite - number of each	
Details of the outbreak: • Number of cases (service users (SUs)/staff) • Date of onset in first case • Date of onset in most recent case • Nature of symptoms and severity • Any swabs already taken - obtain any details to f/u results • Any cases requiring admission to hospital • No of deaths due to COVID-19 (suspected /confirmed)	
Hand hygiene Reinforce education of staff and residents about hand and respiratory hygiene and display posters widely. Ensure infection control policies are up to date, read and followed by all staff.	
Facilities Ensure liquid soap and disposable paper towels are available at each sink, and alcohol-based hand rub (at least 70%) is in every communal area, and stocks are adequately maintained.	
Social distancing All hotel/MOD site staff and residents should be observing social distancing, so contacts are not expected to extend beyond those sharing a room. Advise closure of all communal areas. Advise strict social distancing and rota system for communal areas that cannot be fully closed (e.g. dining halls, bathrooms, gardens)	
Linen and waste Ideally, do not wash laundry until the isolation period is over. If this is not possible, laundry should be picked up by the SU, bagged in the room and placed outside the room for double bagging. Do not shake dirty laundry and wash laundry using the warmest setting.	

Environmental cleaning Increase frequency of cleaning, depending on the extent of the outbreak and exposure in communal areas. Avoid cleaning of rooms of symptomatic residents until the isolation period is over. If possible, residents should clean rooms/flats themselves. Rooms to be deep cleaned after each resident. Use detergents and disinfectants as per guidance Cleaners should use disposable gloves, mask and an apron for cleaning. Public areas where a symptomatic individual has passed through and spent minimal time, such as corridors, can be cleaned thoroughly as normal.	
Visitors No visiting whilst residents are self-isolating.	
Symptomatic residents	Comments
Isolation of symptomatic residents for 10 days after their onset of symptoms. - Has the case been moved to the Covid-19 isolation unit. - Are staff conducting a daily symptom/welfare check for residents particularly for those identified to be contacts of a case.	
- Allocate a separate staff cohort to support residents with symptoms. If possible, any staff who have recovered from confirmed COVID-19 should be allocated to this. - Staff must maintain strict social distancing when not wearing PPE e.g. at break times, meetings.	
Residential contacts	Comments
Isolate resident contacts for 10 days after last exposure to the confirmed case. Definition of household or residential contacts depends on the the layout of the accommodation and how it is organised. In deciding what constitutes a household, the key factor is whether residents share living spaces, in particular: bathrooms, toilets, kitchens and sleeping space. Residents who share any of these should be considered as a 'household'. - No of residential/household contacts - Contacts advised to self-isolate for 10 days from last exposure - Provisions made to have personalised plans for food, water, support for physical and mental health needs and communication (e.g. does the resident have a mobile phone?) - Contacts should be reminded to report any symptoms they experience during the isolation and seek testing	



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UK Visas
& Immigration

Contingency Asylum Accommodation: Stakeholder Briefing

This pack provides an update to stakeholders engaged with the Home Office on the establishment and operation of Napier Barracks as well as those involved in our other stood up and proposed contingency accommodation sites.

Updated – 07 April 2021

Why is the Home Office using temporary accommodation?

- The Home Office has a statutory obligation to provide support including accommodation to destitute asylum seekers whilst their claims are being considered.
- The asylum system has faced significant pressures and it has become necessary to source, and use, additional temporary accommodation (sometimes referred to as contingency accommodation), such as hotels and more recently Ministry of Defence (MoD) sites to ensure the Home Office can continue to meet its statutory obligations towards destitute asylum seekers.
- In 2019, the asylum accommodated population remained broadly static at around 47,000. As of December 2020, we are currently accommodating around 61,000 people under the asylum support provisions.
- As part of Government measures to fight coronavirus, at the end of March 2020 we made the decision that asylum seekers who would normally no longer be eligible for accommodation because their claim has been resolved will continue to receive support. This was to ensure that people were not made homeless and able to follow social distancing. Whilst some cessations of support have since resumed, negative cessations (ending support for those who have had a negative outcome to their claim) have had to be temporarily paused again during current Covid-19 restrictions.
- Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the asylum system has faced significant pressures and it has become necessary to use additional temporary accommodation to ensure the Home Office can continue to meet its statutory obligations.
- All Accommodation is safe, habitable and fit for purpose and correctly equipped in line with existing contractual requirements for asylum accommodation. Within the current Covid-19 environment, additional measures and guidance have been considered in consultation with Public Health.
- Asylum seekers in temporary accommodation are not detained and are free to come and go as they please. They are subject to the same laws, Covid-19 regulations and protections as any other member of society.
- The safety and security of the local community, asylum seekers, staff and visitors are of paramount importance. We continue to work with the police, local authorities and other partners who are involved in managing community relations to ensure that any issues that may arise are handled appropriately.

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- It is important to remember that the asylum seekers we are accommodating are seeking protection in the United Kingdom and are awaiting the outcome of their asylum claims. Useful information on the asylum-seeking process can be found on Gov.uk:
 - <https://www.gov.uk/claim-asylum>
 - <https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/07/03/factsheet-asylum-accommodation-and-applications/>
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/living-in-asylum-accommodation>

Why is the Home Office using Ministry of Defence site in Kent?

- Given the pressure on the system, we worked at pace to explore options to accommodate asylum seekers. Following a review of available government property, the MOD gave the Home Office temporary use of Napier Barracks in Kent.
- The site is safe, suitable, warm accommodation where asylum seekers receive three meals a day, all paid for by the taxpayer.
- There are tens of thousands of asylum seekers being accommodated across the UK. Given the pressures on the asylum system, Napier will continue to be used over the coming months as a temporary measure.
- All of the people previously at Napier were relocated from the Napier Site by 01/04/21. Since 01/04/21 no asylum seekers have been resident at Napier.
- We intend to move new residents onto the Napier site from Friday 09/04/21 with numbers increasing over the next few weeks.

Who is using the contingency accommodation?

- This contingency accommodation is being used to accommodate single, adult male asylum seekers. These are people who have claimed asylum in the United Kingdom, and whose asylum claims are under consideration. They are not being detained and so are free to come and go.
- Checks are made to confirm suitability for transfer to the accommodation before individuals are moved to the sites. This process helps ensure that anyone with indicators of vulnerability, modern slavery or exploitation, or significant health issues are not transferred to the sites. All asylum seekers are fully briefed by our accommodation providers in advance of any move.
- We are not using the sites to accommodate women or children. All those being moved to the sites will have already completed any required period of self-isolation

Commented [1] We still have no assurance that these checks will determine underlying health conditions including infection, or that health histories are transferred with residents

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in other accommodation since their arrival in the United Kingdom, and we will not be moving anyone onto the site who is showing Covid-19 symptoms.

Is the accommodation suitable?

- All our accommodation is safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped in line with existing asylum accommodation standards, contractual requirements and we have sought advice from Public Health around Covid-19.
- Accommodation numbers and configuration of the sites take account of the need for COVID-security and are in line with guidance from the relevant health authorities.

What steps is the Home Office taking to respond to the findings of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's inspection of contingency asylum accommodation?

- We expect the highest standards from providers and have instructed them to make improvements following the interim report from the Independent Chief Inspector.
- We await the full report on contingency accommodation and will lay that in Parliament with the Department's response as usual after the inspection is concluded.

How long will the sites be used for?

- This is temporary, contingency accommodation whilst we work to get the system back in balance.

What is being provided for asylum seekers at the sites?

- All the basic needs of asylum seekers are met in this accommodation with consideration to their welfare.
- The sites are fully catered (three meals per day) and options are provided which cater for special dietary, cultural or religious requirements; additional meals are provided as required. There is power, heating, water and support items such as toiletries are provided, along with access to laundry facilities.
- Televisions are available at the sites and wi-fi is available in designated areas allowing for internet access. Mobile telephones are provided if asylum seekers do not have one to ensure that contact can be made.

Commented [2]: The accommodation numbers and configuration are not in line with guidance from the CCG and we have advised that another outbreak of covid or another infectious disease is inevitable,

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- All asylum seekers have access to a 24/7 Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help where they can raise any concerns regarding accommodation or support services.
- Our accommodation providers and Migrant Help also work with a range of stakeholders which include national non-governmental and charitable organisations to provide support to asylum seekers, for example, English lessons or volunteering opportunities, when coronavirus regulations allow.

What information is provided to the asylum seekers on arrival at these sites?

- Information about what asylum seekers can expect from asylum accommodation is primarily given through a comprehensive induction process. This includes information relating to adherence to social distancing and Covid-19 regulations. Home Office information on rights and entitlements is also provided.

- The induction process is supplemented by the information provided online by the Home Office:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/living-in-asylum-accommodation>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-support-uk-rights-and-expectations>

and Migrant Help:

<https://www.migranthehelpuk.org/about-asylum-services>

- Induction material is provided in the language of the country of origin or language of choice. Interpreters are available 24/7 when speaking with Migrant Help.

What healthcare is being provided?

- Healthcare arrangements in place at the sites are agreed between the Home Office and the relevant Clinical Commissioning Group. There is a prescribing nurse on site at Napier and our accommodation provider will transport people to medical appointments.

What safeguarding measures are in place?

- Using information from Home Office's screening processes and in consultation with the safeguarding teams, asylum seekers' cases are pre-checked and only allocated accommodation at the sites if there are no indicators of vulnerability or exploitation in their case history which would mean they do not meet the suitability criteria in place for temporary accommodation.

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- Asylum seekers may contact Migrant Help 24 hours a day, 365 days a year if they need help, advice or guidance, that includes raising issues relating to safeguarding.
- Our accommodation providers are on site 24/7 to deal with any issues raised by the residents and to ensure that their safeguarding requirements are met.
- If our accommodation providers have reasonable grounds to suspect that the safety and wellbeing of asylum seekers, staff, or members of the community are at risk, they are obliged to take appropriate action including contacting the police, ambulance or local authority services as well as making an onward referral to the Home Office safeguarding team.

What Covid-19 guidance and measures are in place?

- Measures are kept under review to ensure compliance with the latest law and all public health advice in England. These measures include:
 - Written guidance in respect of self-hygiene, social distancing and self-isolation is issued to all asylum seekers;
 - Hand sanitisation stations are in place around the sites with pictorial guidance on Covid-19 and social distancing requirements;
 - An enhanced cleaning service is in place at Napier and all residents will be given a hygiene/cleaning pack on arrival to enable them to maintain their sleeping areas
 - Mealtimes are staggered to enable social distancing at meal times;
 - A test and trace system is in place at the sites. Asylum seekers are reminded of the current COVID restrictions and social distancing requirements in place when they choose to leave the site, but they are not detained and are free to leave the site at any time.
 - Any asylum seeker user who develops symptoms of Covid-19 will be instructed to self-isolate and provided with suitable accommodation to enable them to do so.
 - Daily welfare checks will be made on individuals isolating;
 - Asylum seekers, staff on site and visitors will have the same access to testing as the general population.
 - The site will be deep cleaned before next use
- Our accommodation providers will follow Gov.uk guidance for providers of asylum accommodation which you can find here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-providers-of-accommodation-for-asylum-seekers/covid-19-guidance-for-providers-of-accommodation-for-asylum-seekers>

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What security arrangements are in place?

- At all these sites security risk assessments are conducted, and local authorities and police forces are consulted on matters relating to security, safety and community cohesion, to minimise the risk to any individuals that are accommodated on the sites as well as members of the community.
- The sites have a security presence 24/7. The Home Office and its accommodation provider keep security under review.
- All incidents are reported to the Home Office immediately by its accommodation provider. The Home Office then work with them to put additional measures in place, if required.

What legal advice will asylum seekers have access to?

- All asylum seekers have access to a 24/7 Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help where they can request assistance or guidance regarding legal advice on a freephone number.

What about the impacts on the local community?

- The Home Office recognises that there will be concerns raised by local communities regarding the sites and are committed to detailed engagement with local authorities and stakeholders to understand and mitigate risks and concerns of the wider community.
- This includes working closely with the police and other agencies in matters relating to the operation of the sites, safety and security and the handling of any protests. The safety and security of the local community, asylum seekers, staff and visitors to the sites is of paramount importance.
- Our accommodation providers are experienced and have all the required policies and procedures in place around security, safeguarding, critical incident management and health and safety.
- The Home Office continue to work with the police, local authorities and other partners who are involved in managing community relations to ensure that any issues that may arise are handled appropriately and concerns addressed.

How is this being funded, including unexpected pressures on local services?

- The Home Office is funding the operation of the sites, which are designed to meet the basic needs of asylum seekers. In addition, the Home Office will pay full local taxation costs in terms of council tax and business rates where appropriate.

Busting the temporary accommodation myths

Claim: This type of accommodation is unfit for purpose and uninhabitable

We strongly reject this claim. These sites are safe, habitable and fit for purpose and correctly equipped in line with existing contractual requirements for asylum accommodation.

Claim: asylum seekers living in army accommodation are not being given access to healthy food or that it is inedible

This is not accurate. We provide all asylum seekers with safe and secure accommodation with three nutritious meals served a day, all of which is paid for by the taxpayer.

Claim: asylum seekers have not been given access to healthcare or legal advice

This is wrong. We have appropriate health care provision at the sites, having worked closely with the Clinical Commissioning Group in Kent. Asylum seekers have been freely able to contact legal representatives and support with regards to their asylum claim and can contact Migrant Help for support if they need any assistance – they are available 24/7.

Claim: The Home Office is taking too long to process asylum claims

There are several factors that contribute to the overall length of time to process an asylum claim and those awaiting a consideration. We are working hard to reduce processing times through plans to further speed up asylum interviews and decision making with steps being taken to improve efficiency, focusing on process improvements, better quality decisions and transformation. Plans are at an advanced stage to enable asylum interviews to be conducted while people are resident at Napier.

Claim: Army barracks are a downgrade compared to hotels

A range of different accommodation types are used to provide asylum seekers with initial accommodation, and at all sites contracted providers are required to provide safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped accommodation.

The ongoing pressures of the Covid-19 pandemic on the existing accommodation estate have necessitated the sourcing of contingency accommodation to create additional capacity to ensure that our obligations can continue to be met in full. Following an urgent scoping exercise, this led to the identification of two Ministry of Defence sites.

The accommodation at Napier is safe, warm and secure and meets required standards.

Commented [SV3]: Health partners have not had evidence that the accommodation now provides a covid safe environment and are clear that the previous configuration did not do so.

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Our providers have considerable experience managing asylum seeker accommodation, and the self-contained nature of the sites allows for full provision to be made for asylum seekers' needs, something that can be challenging to deliver in hotels.

Claim: Home Office has not consulted with the relevant local authorities

We recognise that it is important to provide information and an explanation about why the Home Office has taken these urgent steps and provide reassurance about the purpose of the use of the accommodation, those who will be using it and the impacts locally.

The Home Office has participated in online community engagement events arranged by Folkestone and Hythe District Council, with the opportunity to channel further specific concerns through members of the multi-agency stakeholder groups that have been established and meet regularly.

Claim: The Home Office is looking to secure more MoD sites

The Government is committed to meet its legal obligations to support destitute asylum seekers, including ensuring enough accommodation is always available. We are considering various options that will enable us to do this.

At the same time, we are fixing our broken asylum system to make it firm and fair. We will seek to stop abuse of the system while ensuring it is compassionate towards those who need our help, welcoming people through safe and legal routes.

Claim: This accommodation is going to become permanent initial accommodation facilities

We have always said that our use of such sites for contingency initial asylum accommodation will be only for as long as is necessary, whilst we get the asylum system back in balance.

Napier Barracks - Digital Interviewing Platform

- During the past year and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, Home Office Asylum Operations have delivered enhancements to the existing digital interviewing platform, enabling the customer, interviewer, interpreter and any representatives to be in different remote locations whilst a substantive asylum interview is conducted. This has helped us in continuing to deliver our services in safe and innovative ways to ensure asylum claims are progressed.
- To further expand the number of interviews, we have been looking at other suitable locations where we may be able to conduct remote interviews. In addition to work with Local Authorities, we have expanded interviewing into initial accommodation as way of a pilot in Derby and Liverpool along with the use of HM Passport Office (HMPO) offices in Plymouth, we are also looking to start utilising HMPO Portsmouth soon. In addition, we have explored the option of interviewing asylum customers who are residing in Napier Barracks. Remote digital interviewing remains complementary to the in-person process.
- Initially, we intend to provide the relevant equipment to carry out some testing (including language testing) and if successful we will then set up a pilot to interview asylum customers. We will focus on inviting customers who are located within the site to conduct remote interviews, using Asylum Operations Decision Makers based across the UK, thus reducing the amount of travel required. We will, of course, continue to identify any cases where an interview is not required i.e. where a decision can be made on the papers.
- We are confident that this will offer an excellent opportunity to progress asylum claims for our customers and we hope you will agree that this is a positive step.